



WORCESTER

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative:

Known as the "Heart of the Commonwealth," Worcester, Massachusetts with a population of 170,000 remains today what it has been for decades, New England's second largest city and site of a diverse and pioneering economy. First incorporated as a township in 1722, this settlement forty miles west of Boston soon became an important transportation center on the Boston Turnpike linking the capital city with New York and the west. One of America's first internal commercial waterways, the Blackstone Canal, linked the town with Providence, Rhode Island to the South and gave direct access to the Atlantic Ocean. Worcester played its role in America's early history. General Washington rode through here. The cannon used at Dorchester Heights to drive the British from Boston were literally dragged through its streets. Abraham Lincoln slept here, and John Adams taught school here. Industry thrived here; steel fabrication and wire drawing, printing and envelop manufacturing, abrasives and machine tooling. The valentine card got its start here. America's first experiments in rockets started here. The birth control pill was invented here.

Today, the city has changed from its heavy manufacturing past to new directions in economic enterprise. Biotechnology is a major enterprise within the city, as are eight colleges and a state university medical school. It is an inland port of entry for foreign commerce, relying upon major interstate highways and rail lines which traverse the municipality. A city-owned airport has been improved with a new \$15 million modernized air terminal to accommodate passengers and air freight. More than fifty intracity bus trips originate in the downtown every day. Worcester is nonetheless predominantly residential in character. More than 1200 acres of city-owned parkland are found within its 38 square miles. Fifty public schools educate 20,000 children. Half of the entire city budget goes for educational purposes, testimony to the values of its inhabitants. Its parklands are among the oldest in the nation; its free public library one of America's oldest; its acclaimed music festival the nation's oldest; its art museum a gem rivalling those of major urban centers. Worcester is a city proud of its past and secure in its future.



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Holden and West Boylston on the northwest and north, Shrewsbury on the east, Millbury and Auburn on the south, and Leicester and Paxton on the west. Worcester is 40 miles west of Boston and 51 miles east of Springfield.

Total Area: 38.56 sq. miles

Land Area: 37.56 sq. miles

Population: 169,759

Density: 4,520 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Worcester WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....22.8°F
Normal temperature in July.....69.7°F
Normal annual precipitation.....47.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Worcester North, Worcester South, Grafton, Paxton

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 799-1000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Council-Manager
City Manager

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1722

As a city: 1848

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 60,667

Democrats 32,269 53.2 % Republicans 7,461 12.3 % Other parties 26 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 20,911 34.5 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Worcester city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	172,648	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	172,648	100.0
Male.....	82,914	48.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	26,155	15.1
Female.....	89,734	52.0	Mexican.....	706	0.4
Under 5 years.....	11,142	6.5	Puerto Rican.....	17,091	9.9
5 to 9 years.....	11,854	6.9	Cuban.....	399	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	11,381	6.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	7,959	4.6
15 to 19 years.....	13,769	8.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	146,493	84.9
20 to 24 years.....	15,622	9.0	White alone.....	122,211	70.8
25 to 34 years.....	26,781	15.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	25,578	14.8	Total population.....	172,648	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	19,711	11.4	In households.....	161,541	93.6
55 to 59 years.....	6,756	3.9	Householder.....	67,028	38.8
60 to 64 years.....	5,665	3.3	Spouse.....	25,685	14.9
65 to 74 years.....	10,956	6.3	Child.....	47,810	27.7
75 to 84 years.....	9,582	5.6	Own child under 18 years.....	36,666	21.2
85 years and over.....	3,851	2.2	Other relatives.....	9,092	5.3
Median age (years).....	33.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	2,939	1.7
18 years and over.....	131,921	76.4	Nonrelatives.....	11,926	6.9
Male.....	62,016	35.9	Unmarried partner.....	4,318	2.5
Female.....	69,905	40.5	In group quarters.....	11,107	6.4
21 years and over.....	120,586	69.8	Institutionalized population.....	2,893	1.7
62 years and over.....	27,784	16.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	8,214	4.8
65 years and over.....	24,399	14.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	9,314	5.4	Total households.....	67,028	100.0
Female.....	15,075	8.7	Family households (families).....	39,228	58.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	19,450	29.0
One race.....	166,787	96.6	Married-couple family.....	25,685	38.3
White.....	133,124	77.1	With own children under 18 years.....	11,510	17.2
Black or African American.....	11,892	6.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	10,448	15.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	769	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	6,614	9.9
Asian.....	8,402	4.9	Nonfamily households.....	27,800	41.5
Asian Indian.....	1,021	0.6	Householder living alone.....	22,128	33.0
Chinese.....	1,181	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	8,166	12.2
Filipino.....	147	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	21,199	31.6
Japanese.....	191	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	16,818	25.1
Korean.....	224	0.1	Average household size.....	2.41	(X)
Vietnamese.....	4,764	2.8	Average family size.....	3.11	(X)
Other Asian ¹	874	0.5	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	96	0.1	Total housing units.....	70,723	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	16	-	Occupied housing units.....	67,028	94.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	18	-	Vacant housing units.....	3,695	5.2
Samoa.....	12	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	50	-	occasional use.....	315	0.4
Some other race.....	12,504	7.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	5,851	3.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	67,028	100.0
White.....	137,758	79.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	29,054	43.3
Black or African American.....	13,785	8.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	37,974	56.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1,700	1.0	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.57	(X)
Asian.....	9,138	5.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.28	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	405	0.2			
Some other race.....	16,038	9.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	926
Conventional Federal	2,169

Rental Assistance (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	319
Federal (Section 8)	1,687



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Centrally located with three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are the Worcester Turnpike (State Route 9) and Interstate Routes 190 and 290. The Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) and U.S. Route 20 are easily accessible at interchanges in Auburn.

Rail

Direct Amtrak passenger rail service to Boston, Springfield, Providence. Conrail, the Providence & Worcester Railroad, and the Springfield Terminal Railway (STRR) all provide freight service and interchange traffic in Worcester. Conrail and the Providence & Worcester Railroad operate large intermodal (container and trailer) terminals in the city. They also have rail/truck transfer facilities for bulk products.

Bus

Worcester is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), which provides fixed route service within Worcester and to surrounding towns. The WRTA also offers paratransit services for the elderly and disabled. Peter Pan Bus Lines provides service from Worcester to Boston and points between. Peter Pan connects Worcester directly to Providence, RI, and via Providence, to Cape Cod.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility, is located 3 mi. W of the city. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500'x 150' and 6,999'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Peter Pan Bus Lines offers transportation to Logan Airport from Worcester 7 days a week.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

American Antiquarian Society
185 Salisbury Street
(508) 755-5221
Higgins Armory Museum
100 Barber Avenue
(508) 853-6015
Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery
1 College Street
(508) 793-3356
New England Science Center
222 Harrington Way
(508) 791-9211
Salisbury Mansion
40 Highland Street
(508) 753-8278
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury Street
(508) 799-4406
Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
(508) 753-8183
Worcester Historical Museum
30 Elm Street
(508) 753-8278

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Adcare Hospital of Worcester, Inc
College Of The Holy Cross Infirmary
Fairlawn Rehab. Hospital, Inc
Marillac Manor
Medical Center Of Central Mass.
St. Vincent Hospital
University Of Massachusetts Hospital

Long Term Care

Armstrong Nursing Home
Bancroft House Healthcare N.H
Belmont Home
Blair House LTCF of Worcester
Clark Manor Nursing Home, Inc.
Elmwood Manor Nursing Home
Greenery Extended Care Center
Hammond House Convalescent Home
Harvard Nursing Home, Inc.
Hermitage Nursing Home
Highland Manor Rest Home
Home For Aged Women
Jewish Home For Aged
Knollwood Nursing Center
Lincoln Nursing & Rehab. Center
Lutheran H. Of Worcester Inc.
Memorial Geriatric Restorative
Mill Hill Nursing Home
Notre Dame Long Term Care Center
Odd Fellows Home Of Mass, Inc.
Park Terrace Nursing & Rehab. Center
Providence Extended Care Center
Saint Francis Home
Salisbury Nursing Home
Spring Valley Convalescent Home
Stone House Hill Nursing Home
Wayside Nursing & Rehab. Center
West Side House LTCF

Hospices

VNA Of Central Mass.

Department of Housing and Community Development
Mitt Romney, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

Rest Homes

Anna Maria Rest Home, Inc.
Burncoat Plains Rest Home
Catherine Rest Home
Catherine-Windsor Rest Home
Dalton Rest Home
Dodge Park Rest Home
Donna Kay Rest Home
Homestead Hall
Meadowbrook Manor Rest Home
Pleasant Acres Rest Home, Inc
Schussler Rest Home
Smith Rest Home
Winter Hill Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.